

SECRET [REDACTED]

25X1

TALKING POINTSLebanon SituationHighlights

- Lebanon remained relatively quiet for the third day. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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- The Israeli Cabinet yesterday issued a communique agreeing to maintain the cease-fire as long as Syrian and PLO forces also observe it. The communique also "recommended" that the Lebanese Army enter West Beirut to disarm Palestinian forces and that all PLO members be required to leave Lebanon under Red Cross escort. [REDACTED]

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- Israeli radio reported that Prime Minister Begin denied at the Cabinet meeting that he had given the US assurances that Israel would not invade West Beirut. [REDACTED]

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- Middle East press sources yesterday and today reported both claims and denials that the PLO, in negotiations with the Lebanese Government, had offered to withdraw its 6,000 troops from Beirut in exchange for an Israeli pullback 5 kilometers from the city. According to one account, the Lebanese Government has accepted the proposals in principle. [REDACTED]

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- The Arab League foreign ministers, meeting in Tunis over the weekend, reached no decisions but named a committee to study various options. Lebanese representatives wanted the meeting to endorse an end to Palestinian military activity from Lebanon, and the PLO called on Arab states to take economic reprisals against the US. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] there is little enthusiasm for an Arab summit to follow the meeting. [REDACTED]

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SECRET [REDACTED]

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Analysis

- The Israeli Cabinet communique is the first public statement of the government's conditions for a political settlement in Lebanon. Its publication at this time is probably intended to signal that Israel will not retreat from its demands despite growing concern about a possible shift in US policy following Secretary of State Haig's resignation. [REDACTED] 25X1
- The press reports on the PLO proposal have not been confirmed, but the Israelis are not likely to agree to a pullback of 5 kilometers. [REDACTED] 25X1
- Both Israel and Syria remain militarily poised for a renewal of hostilities. The Israelis have been ready for several days to move against Palestinian positions in West Beirut. The Syrians have reinforced their positions in the border area. [REDACTED] 25X1

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Implications

- Broader trends and related policy questions are addressed in the attached memorandum from NIO/NESA and D/NESA. [REDACTED] 25X1

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